

STATE OF IOWA  
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
UTILITIES BOARD

IN RE:  PEOPLES NATURAL GAS COMPANY, DIVISION OF UTILICORP UNITED INC.	DOCKET NOS. WRU-99-46-225 RFU-99-10
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**ORDER GRANTING REQUEST FOR WAIVER**

(Issued December 7, 1999)

On October 12, 1999, Peoples Natural Gas Company, Division of UtiliCorp United Inc. (Peoples), filed with the Utilities Board (Board) a notice of receipt of a refund from Northern Natural Gas Company, which, in turn, must be refunded to customers. The refund is identified as Docket No. RFU-99-10. According to Peoples, Iowa's portion of the refund is approximately \$1,429,932 that will amount to a refund of approximately \$8 to an average residential customer.

On October 25, 1999, Peoples filed a request for waiver of IOWA ADMIN. CODE 199-19.10(8) which requires a utility to refund by bill credit or check amounts received from a gas supplier which exceed \$5 per average retail customer. In its request, Peoples requested the Board allow it until April 15, 2000, to refund amounts to customers. According to Peoples, its parent company, UtiliCorp United Inc., has purchased a new billing system in order to be Y2K compliant. Because billing has been done on two systems for the period covered by the refund, extensive

programming will have to be completed to merge the data necessary to make the refund. Peoples proposed to pay interest on the refund through April 15, 2000.

The Board will approve the request for waiver. Peoples has demonstrated good cause for requesting a waiver of the Board's rule. Peoples will pay interest on all amounts that it will hold until April 15, 2000. The Board believes allowing Peoples to wait until the computer systems are merged will be in the best interest of its customers. Peoples stated it would notify the Board of the details of the refund no later than January 15, 2000.

**IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:**

The request for waiver filed by Peoples Natural Gas Company, Division of UtiliCorp United Inc., on October 25, 1999, is granted.

**UTILITIES BOARD**

/s/ Allan T. Thoms

/s/ Susan J. Frye

ATTEST:

/s/ Judi K. Cooper  
Executive Secretary, Deputy

/s/ Diane Munns

Dated at Des Moines, Iowa, this 7<sup>th</sup> day of December, 1999.